(c) and (d) No Financial management Strategy document prepared by the Defence Forces has been sent to the Union Government for approval.

Deployment of Armed Forces in NE States

4719. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army battalion deployed in NE States during 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that not a single operation unit of the army is presently deployed in Tripura to combat insurgent activities; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to deploy adequate armed forces to these places immediately to stem further escalation of such activities and combat the anti-national forces and their allies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The maximum number of Army/Assam Rifles and Rashtriya Rifles units that were deployed for counter insurgency operations in the North Eastern States during 1998-99 was 71.

(b) and (c) Four Assam Rifles battalions under the operational control of Army are presently deployed in the sensitive areas to combat militancy in Tripura. The deployment of forces in the counter insurgency Grid in the North Eastern Region is done in accordnace with the threat assessment and the determined priorities and depends on security situation obtaining in the region.

There is presently no plan to deploy additional units of the Army/Assam Rifles in the area.

Shifting of Firing Range from Dehradun

†4720. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the firing range adjoining Dehradun has come closure to the city and is posing a constant threat to the civil population during the military shooting practice; and

(b) whether under these circumstances the said firing range will be shifted away from the city?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) None of the four Field/Small Arms Ranges have been shifted closer to the city. All

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the four ranges are located between 6 to 40 kms away from Dehradun. Due to increase of population and expansion of Dehradun city the distance from the civilian population to these firing ranges may have changed. There has been no report of any civilian residential area being affected by firing practice in any of the firing ranges. Adequate precautionary and safety measures are taken to obviate the risk of danger to any civilian.

(b) does not aries.

Development of Missiles

4721. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trishul surface to air missile has been developed;

(b) if so, whether it has been inducted in Navy, and

(c) if not, the schedule for its development?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The state-of-the-art missile Trishul for the Navy has two roles namely, surface-to-air and anti-sea skimmer. The missile is in final stages of evaluation with user participation.

(c) After completion of the on-going evaluation trials, the missile system is planned to undergo sea trials by mid 2001 followed by indication into the Navy.

Utilisation of Funds by Army

4722. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army failed to utilise over Rs. 1000/- crores of budget for 1999-2000 inspite of modernisation/ upgradation, demand of arms, ammunition and other equipments;

(b) if so, the reasons for failing to finalise equipment purchase and upgradation demands; and

(c) the steps proposed to cut short procedural delay in purchasing equipment on priorities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Final Accounts for 1999-2000 are not yet due. However, from the